

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6925
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, UR
SUBJECT: SHIPMENT TO US OF REMAINS OF SOVIET RELATIVES OF
U.S. CITIZENS

KIEV ADVANCE PARTY HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO DEPARTMENT:

"1. KIEV ADVANCE PARTY (KAP) HAS BEEN APPROACHED ON BEHALF OF
AMCITS JAKOB SHAPIRO AND ANNA SHAPIRO KUNIANSKY,
5710 BRAESVALLY, HOUSTON, TEXAS, FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXHUMATION
AND SHIPMENT TO U.S. OF REMAINS OF THEIR PARENTS. PARENTS,
IRA SHAPIRO AND MIRA TWERSKY, WERE NOT RPT NOT U.S. CITIZENS.
PARENTS BURIED IN KIEV. APPROACH TO KAP WAS MADE BY MARKUS
GUTMAN, SOVIET CITIZEN WHO HAS POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM SHAPIRO/
KUNIANSKY TO ARRANGE FOR SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO U.S.

2. NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ARISE FOR WHICH KAP WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE:

A. ASSUME DOCUMENTS BASICALLY THE SAME WHETHER OR NOT SUBJECTS
WERE U.S. CITIZENS, PER 7 FAM 442.4-1.

B. AFFIDAVIT (7 FAM 442.4-3). KAP WILL CHECK TO DETERMINE IF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE AFFIDAVIT AS THERE IS SOME QUESTION
IF THEY ARE WILLING TO DO SO. IF UNABLE TO OBTAIN AFFIDAVIT,
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WOULD CONSOFF STATEMENT OF OBSERVATION OF REMAINS BEING PLACED
IN CASKET AND CASKET BEING SEALED SATISFY U.S. CUSTOMS
REQUIREMENTS?

C. APPARENTLY EMBALMING IS NOT NORMAL PROCEDURE IN KIEV AND THERE
IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD REMAINS HAVE BEEN EMBALMED. ALTHOUGH
CAUSES OF DEATH DO NOT APPEAR TO INVOLVE QUARANTINABLE

DISEASES, IS SUBSTITUTE FORMALIN/WINDING CLOTH METHOD OF PRE-SERVATION NECESSARY TO SATISFY U.S. QUARANTINE AND INTERSTATE REQUIREMENTS (7 FAM 442.5-1)?

D. NORMAL PRACTICE IN KIEV FOR SHIPMENT IS TO PLACE REMAINS IN WOODEN CONTAINER WHICH IS SEALED IN ZINC CASKET. DOES THIS SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OR IS ANOTHER TYPE OF CASKET NECESSARY?

3. WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSE TO ABOVE QUESTIONS, AND ANY ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS DEPT MAY OFFER AS KIEV AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT EXHUMATION EXCEPT DURING WINTER MONTHS. WHILE END OF WINTER APPARENTLY ARBITRARILY DECIDED, AND NOT YET ANNOUNCED, GUTMAN BELIEVES THERE ARE ONLY TWO MONTHS REMAINING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AND COMPLETE SHIPMENT. WOULD PREFER INTRODUCING U.S. GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS ASAP TO MINIMIZE DELAYS AND AVOID HAVING TO CARRY THIS CASE OVER UNTIL NEXT WINTER."
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